## Exhibit 1

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1
                        UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 2
                        EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
 3
                              SOUTHERN DIVISION
 4
                                )
 5
                                ) Civil Action No.
     In Re FLINT WATER CASES
                                   5:16-cv-10444-JEL-MKM
 6
                                ) (Consolidated)
 7
                                   Hon. Judith E. Levy
 8
                                   Mag. Mona K. Majzoub
 9
10
11
                          HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
                VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF MICHAEL BYRNES
12
                      Wednesday, February 19, 2020
                              at 9:02 a.m.
13
14
          Taken at:
                         Weitz & Luxenberg
15
                         Fisher Building
                          3011 West Grand Boulevard
                         Suite 2150
16
                         Detroit, Michigan 48202
17
18
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20
          REPORTED BY: LAUREL A. FROGNER, RMR, CRR, CSR-2495
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          Marc Myers, Videographer
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1	Detroit, Michigan
2	Wednesday, February 19, 2020
3	About 9:02 a.m.
4	THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are now on the
5	record. My name is Marc Myers. I'm the videographer
6	for Golkow Litigation Services. Today's date is
7	February 19th, 2020. The time is now 9:02 a.m.
8	This video deposition is being held in
9	Detroit, Michigan in the matter of the Flint Water
10	Cases pending in the United States District Court,
11	Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division. The
12	deponent is Michael Byrnes.
13	And at this time will all attorneys please
14	state their appearances for the record and the court
15	reporter, Laurel Frogner, please swear in the
16	witness.
17	MS. WEINER: Jessica Weiner from Cohen
18	Milstein Sellers & Toll on behalf of the Proposed
19	Class.
20	MR. PETERS: Ted Peters from McAlpine on
21	behalf of the Proposed Class.
22	MR. WALKER: Renner Walker from Levy
23	Koningsberg, co-liaison counsel for Individual
24	Plaintiffs.

1	MS. BETTENHAUSEN: Margaret Bettenhausen on		
2	behalf of the People.		
3	MR. BERG: Rick Berg on the behalf of the		
4	City of Flint.		
5	MS. DUPRE: Kristin Dupre for Veolia North		
6	America, Inc., Veolia North America, LLC, and Veolia		
7	Water North American Operating Services.		
8	MR. McELVAINE: Bryan McElvaine on behalf		
9	of Veolia North America, Inc.; Veolia North America,		
10	LLC; and Veolia Water North America Operating		
11	Services. And as usual, I just request that		
12	everybody respect the 15-day rule for any		
13	confidentially marked documents. Thank you.		
14	THE COURT REPORTER: Anybody on the phone?		
15	MR. FAJEN: James Fajen for Adam Rosenthal.		
16	MR. ROBERTS: Good morning. Jared Roberts		
17	for the MDEQ Employee Defendants.		
18	MR. DAWSON: Good morning. Don Dawson on		
19	behalf of Plaintiffs Brown and Rogers.		
20	MR. HICKLAND: Jude Hickland for the LAN		
21	and LAD Defendants.		
22	MS. MULDER: Good morning. Megan Mulder on		
23	behalf of Defendant McLaren.		
24			

- 1 work.
- 2 Q. Okay. So even though this -- the initial work in
- 3 Flint was a one-off job, you thought that there would
- 4 possibly be additional work for the City of Flint?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And that's why you decided to approve the bid?
- 7 A. Uh-huh.
- 8 Q. Sorry. Can I just get a verbal answer?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And then once a project is selected -- actually, I'm
- 11 sorry. Let me back up.
- 12 So your sign-off was required for Veolia to
- bid on the work for the City of Flint; is that
- 14 correct?
- 15 A. I didn't have -- because it spanned many groups
- inside of Veolia, it was more of a voting type, a
- 17 committee type thing. So there was a few people that
- 18 they'd asked do we want to bid this or not. So yes,
- I wanted to bid it. I thought it was a good
- opportunity for us. I thought we could help. If
- 21 nobody else wanted to do it, we wouldn't have done
- 22 it.
- 23 Q. Okay. So yours was one of the votes required for
- 24 sign-off?

- initial scope was -- I think it was \$40,000 basically
- on a drawdown to work for the City around their water
- 3 treatment plant to figure out how to treat the dirty
- 4 Flint River water, and see if the water treatment
- 5 plant could be -- bring it up to safe drinking water
- 6 standards.
- 7 Q. But the upside of bidding was that there was
- 8 additional potential work that Veolia could get,
- 9 correct?
- 10 A. Yeah. It was a utility that was obviously a mess,
- 11 so --
- 12 Q. And in the email at the top Mr. Carpenter wrote, "Hi,
- 13 Mike. Can you please discuss." Do you see that?
- 14 A. Yeah.
- 15 Q. And Mike refers to you, correct?
- 16 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 17 Q. And Mr. Carpenter's asking to discuss the Flint Go/No
- 18 Go Memo with you, correct?
- 19 A. Yep.
- 20 Q. Did you discuss the memo with Mr. Carpenter?
- 21 A. I surmise I did. I don't know.
- 22 Q. Do you recall anything about that conversation?
- 23 A. No, I don't.
- 24 Q. Would you discuss the Flint Go/No Go Memo with anyone

- 1 Flint project, correct?
- 2 A. It's more about the decision on what resources we'd
- 3 use.
- 4 Q. But that has to do with bidding on the Flint project,
- 5 right?
- 6 A. I don't know if we'd already decided to bid or not at
- 7 this point. It's a question of what resources can we
- 8 use on the project.
- 9 Q. And in the top email from Mr. Fahey it's addressed to
- 10 Mike. Does that refer to you?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And in the second sentence of Mr. Fahey's email do
- you see where it says, "As long as you guys think it
- will need to more business it is probably a good
- 15 thing." Do you see that?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Do you think "need" probably meant "lead" to more
- 18 business?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And do you have an understanding of who "you guys"
- 21 refers to?
- 22 A. Maybe the -- I would be surmising that it's the
- people he wrote the email to; myself, Jim Good, Dave
- 24 Gadis, Kevin Hagerty. Your guess is as good as mine.

- 1 Q. And did you think the Flint project would lead to
- 2 more business?
- 3 A. Yes, we did.
- 4 Q. And then the next sentence says, "We are not
- 5 consultants and usually avoid these one-off
- 6 projects." Do you see that?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Did you understand him to mean that Flint was not the
- 9 type of consulting project that Veolia typically
- 10 engaged in?
- 11 A. That's what he's saying, yes.
- 12 Q. Was that your opinion as well?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. Why not?
- 15 A. Because that's the type of business that the
- 16 SourceOne team and the PPS team does every day, but
- 17 Bill's team is mostly used for his internal projects.
- We manage I think 250 water and wastewater plants
- 19 across the country, so he uses his internal experts
- to make sure we're doing the right thing and we're in
- 21 compliance.
- 22 Q. What is Bill's team again?
- 23 A. Technical and Performance.
- Q. And did Mr. Gnagy work for Mr. Fahey's team?

- 1 That's most of our major projects that we've done
- 2 over the years started with very small engagements
- 3 that grew and grew and grew.
- 4 Q. Okay. So from your perspective, pursuing this
- 5 initial Flint project was worth it because you
- 6 believed that it would lead to additional projects
- 7 and more business for Veolia, correct?
- 8 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 9 Q. And as one of the approvers of the Flint project, you
- 10 approved it because you believed it might lead to
- more business down the road?
- 12 A. Among other things, yeah. It's also -- just as a
- stand-alone project, if you can help a community in
- trouble, that's a good thing to do.
- 15 Q. I'm going to give you another document, Mr. Byrnes,
- we're marking Exhibit 6.
- 17 Actually, I'm going to ask you one more
- 18 question about the prior document. Do you still have
- that in front of you? At the end of Mr. Fahey's
- email he says, "Your call." Do you see that?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Did you understand that to mean that it was your call
- whether to bid on the Flint project?
- 24 A. It appears to be.

- 1 Q. And it was your call based on whether you thought it
- would lead to more business?
- 3 A. Again, it seems that way.
- 4 Q. Now I will hand you Exhibit 6.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 BYRNES DEPOSITION EXHIBIT NUMBER 6,
- 7 BATES NUMBER VWNAOS 003087,
- 8 WAS MARKED BY THE REPORTER
- 9 FOR IDENTIFICATION
- 10 BY MS. WEINER:
- 11 Q. Exhibit 6, Bates Number VWNAOS 003087. Are you
- 12 familiar with this document?
- 13 A. Again, the same. I looked at it in preparation for
- 14 this meeting.
- 15 Q. Okay. And in the -- it's an email chain with the
- 16 subject Flint, Michigan. Do you see that?
- 17 A. I do.
- 18 Q. And in the first email in the chain Mr. Carpenter
- 19 writes to Mr. Nicholas, Manshi Low, and Frank Crehan;
- 20 do you see that?
- 21 A. I do.
- 22 Q. Are you familiar with Manshi Low?
- 23 A. I am.
- Q. Who is that?

- 1 A. She was on the PPS team. She now works for Veolia in
- Belgium, I believe.
- 3 Q. Did she work on the Flint project?
- 4 A. I don't recall.
- 5 Q. And what about Frank Crehan?
- 6 A. Frank was a -- he's our head proposal writer for the
- 7 water side of the business.
- 8 Q. And did he work on the Flint project?
- 9 A. He probably wrote the proposal, which is why he's
- 10 attached.
- 11 Q. Does he still work for Veolia?
- 12 A. He does.
- 13 Q. And Mr. Carpenter writes here, "Thought you all
- should know we were the only respondents to the Flint
- 15 RFP. Congratulations on great work, but now we will
- see if we can turn this into a great opportunity!"
- 17 Do you see that?
- 18 A. I do.
- 19 Q. Is RFP Request for Proposal?
- 20 A. It is.
- 21 Q. And he's referring when he says we will see if we can
- turn this into a great opportunity, do you understand
- that to be the opportunity to generate more business
- 24 beyond the initial project?

- 1 A. That's what it appears to be, yes.
- 2 Q. Is that your understanding of what he's saying?
- 3 A. I think so, yes.
- 4 Q. And then in the next email at the top, Mr. Carpenter
- forwards that to you and writes, "Great call, sir!!!"
- 6 Do you see that?
- 7 A. I do.
- 8 Q. Because it was ultimately your call to bid on the
- 9 Flint project?
- 10 A. I'm surmising that's what he means, yes.
- 11 Q. And did others -- you mentioned earlier that there
- were others who were involved in the decision,
- 13 correct?
- 14 A. Uh-huh.
- 15 Q. Did any of them have reservations about the project?
- 16 A. I don't recall.
- 17 Q. But you do understand call in this email to mean the
- 18 call to bid on the Flint project, correct?
- 19 A. Your guess is as good as mine. It seems that way
- from the e-mail chains, but it could mean something
- 21 else.
- 22 Q. What else could it mean?
- 23 A. I have no idea.
- 24 Q. But based on this email --

- 1 Q. And this is an email from you to Mr. Carpenter
- 2 responding to the email that we just reviewed,
- 3 correct?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And you write in response, "Good news, Jon. Now
- 6 let's convert!" Do you see that?
- 7 A. Correct, yes.
- 8 Q. Did you mean convert the consulting agreement into a
- 9 longer term project?
- 10 A. That's what -- probably, yes.
- 11 Q. So essentially to convert the initial agreement with
- 12 Flint and get more business for Veolia for additional
- 13 projects, correct?
- 14 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 15 Q. And additional projects in the form of an O & M or
- PPS engagement?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. I'll hand you Exhibit 8.
- 19 BYRNES DEPOSITION EXHIBIT NUMBER 8,
- BATES NUMBER VWNAOS 018579,
- 21 WAS MARKED BY THE REPORTER
- FOR IDENTIFICATION
- 23 BY MS. WEINER:
- 24 Q. Mr. Byrnes, I've handed you the document Bates

- 1 Mr. DiCroce, correct?
- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 Q. And your email reads, "Flint is signed and we're
- 4 commencing work. Short-term consulting gig that
- 5 should lead to a larger PPS project." Do you see
- 6 that?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And you expected that Veolia's initial project in
- 9 Flint would lead to additional business, right?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And that's why you made the call to bid on the
- 12 project?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. You can put that document aside.
- 15 In addition to the call to bid on the
- 16 project, we talked earlier about how you also had the
- authority to sign off on the contract, right?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And you delegated that authority to Mr. Gadis?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And what is your understanding of the service that
- Veolia was hired to provide to the City of Flint?
- 23 A. We were hired to look at the water treatment plant
- and do an assessment and see if we could -- they

- 1 March 5th, 2015 email at the top from you to
- 2 Mr. Jensen, copying Mr. Nicholas and Mr. Gadis,
- 3 correct?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And the subject is Flint update?
- 6 A. Yep.
- 7 Q. Are you familiar with this document?
- 8 A. Again, this one I saw yesterday, you're correct.
- 9 Q. And we can go to the second page for a moment.
- 10 A. Uh-huh.
- 11 Q. So the second page near the bottom there's an email
- 12 from Mr. Nicholas about getting additional work from
- 13 Flint, correct?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And then in the next email up in the chain from
- Mr. Jensen it says, "I think it's a good development
- 17 that should not require a lot of additional work.
- 18 The resulting contract could be very substantial.
- 19 I'm for it." Do you see that?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Do you understand substantial to refer to a
- 22 substantial sum of money?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. For Veolia to do additional work in Flint?

- 1 And I don't know, this -- I sent it out to the direct
- guys who talked to clients. They're not all
- 3 developers. Some of them are -- Elinor's outside,
- 4 she was communications. Carol was -- yeah, Jack
- 5 Griffin, he's on the PPS team. Those were all my
- direct reports, so I was just trying to get them up
- 7 to speed in case anybody asked them.
- 8 BY MS. WEINER:
- 9 Q. Were you concerned in January 2016 that Veolia would
- 10 lose business because of its role in Flint?
- 11 MR. McELVAINE: Objection.
- 12 You can answer.
- 13 THE WITNESS: I'm sure I was.
- 14 BY MS. WEINER:
- 15 Q. You can put that document to the side.
- 16 Are you aware of any changes to any Veolia
- 17 policies or procedures as a result of Flint?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Are you aware of the Business Development or other
- teams that worked for you changing how they pursued
- 21 business after Flint?
- 22 A. After Flint we generally stayed away from lead
- issues; not that we thought we had a lead issue when
- 24 we entered into Flint, but anytime it came up. After

- there will be a call the following Monday, correct?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And at that time it will be determined what services
- 4 can, will, or should be offered by Veolia, correct?
- 5 A. Correct.
- 6 Q. So even though an invitation to bid had already been
- 7 issued and a proposal had already been made, the
- 8 actual scope hadn't even been finalized by that point
- 9 in time, correct?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 MR. BERG: Objection.
- 12 MR. PETERS: Objection, form, foundation,
- 13 leading.
- MR. WALKER: Same.
- 15 BY MR. McELVAINE:
- 16 Q. Is that unusual?
- 17 A. Not particularly unusual, no --
- 18 Q. And is -- I'm sorry.
- 19 A. Particularly in municipal water they have a tendency
- to hire -- the government term is IDIQ, Indefinite
- 21 Quantity Indefinite Delivery. Anyway, they give you
- a blanket contract and they draw down on it.
- 23 Q. Okay. Like a retainer?
- 24 A. Very much like a retainer.

```
1
      Q.
         Okay. That's all I have, sir. Thank you very much.
 2
      Α.
           Okay.
 3
                     MR. McELVAINE: Anybody else? All right.
                     One of plaintiffs' counsel want to call it?
 4
                     MS. WEINER: We have no further questions.
 5
 6
                     MR. WALKER: No further questions.
 7
                     MR. McELVAINE: Thank you, sir.
 8
                     THE WITNESS: Thank you.
 9
                     THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This concludes the
10
           deposition and we're going off the record at 4:31
11
           p.m.
12
                     (The deposition was concluded at 4:31 p.m.)
13
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1	CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY
2	
3	STATE OF MICHIGAN )
4	) SS
5	COUNTY OF OAKLAND )
6	I, Laurel A. Frogner, Certified Shorthand
7	Reporter, a Notary Public in and for the above county
8	and state, do hereby certify that the above
9	deposition was taken before me at the time and place
10	hereinbefore set forth; that the witness was first
11	duly sworn to testify to the truth and nothing but
12	the truth; that the foregoing questions asked and
13	answers made by the witness were duly recorded by me
14	stenographically and reduced to computer
15	transcription; that this is a true, full, and correct
16	transcript of my stenographic notes so taken; and
17	that I am not related to, nor of counsel to any
18	party, nor interested in the event of this cause.
19	
20	James Fraguer
21	Laurel A. Frogner, CSR-2495, RMR, CRR
22	Notary Public,
23	Oakland County, Michigan
24	My Commission expires: 4-22-2022

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INSTRUCTIONS TO WITNESS
 1
 2
 3
                   Please read your deposition
      over carefully and make any necessary
 4
      corrections. You should state the reason
 5
 6
      in the appropriate space on the errata
      sheet for any corrections that are made.
 7
 8
                   After doing so, please sign
      the errata sheet and date it.
 9
10
                   You are signing same subject
11
      to the changes you have noted on the
      errata sheet, which will be attached to
12
13
      your deposition.
14
                   It is imperative that you
15
      return the original errata sheet to the
      deposing attorney within thirty (30) days
16
      of receipt of the deposition transcript
17
18
      by you. If you fail to do so, the
19
      deposition transcript may be deemed to be
20
      accurate and may be used in court.
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22
23
24
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1		
		ERRATA
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3		
4	PAGE LINE	CHANGE
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6	REASON:	
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24	REASON:	

1					
2	ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DEPONENT				
3					
4	I,, do				
5	hereby certify that I have read the				
6	foregoing pages, and that the same is				
7	a correct transcription of the answers				
8	given by me to the questions therein				
9	propounded, except for the corrections or				
0	changes in form or substance, if any,				
1	noted in the attached Errata Sheet.				
2					
3					
4					
5	MICHAEL BYRNES DATE				
6					
7					
8	Subscribed and sworn				
	to before me this				
9	day of, 20				
0	My commission expires:				
1					
2	Notary Public				
3					
l					

1			LAWYER'S NOTES	
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